

The number of the elected candidate's surplus votes is divided by the number of his first preference votes, the resulting fraction representing the transfer value of his surplus votes. The totals of the elected candidate's ballot papers, after the latter have been arranged in parcels according to the next available preference for continuing candidates, are multiplied by the transfer value. This determines the number of the elected candidate's votes to be transferred to each continuing candidate, the method being to transfer, after random selection, the appropriate number of ballot papers which bear the next available preference for that candidate.

After the surplus votes of all candidates elected on the count of first preferences have been so transferred, any continuing candidate who has received a number of votes equal to or greater than the quota is elected.

This procedure of the transfer of surplus votes of elected candidates is continued, while there are vacancies to be filled, until the stage is reached where no continuing candidate has received the quota of votes. Then the candidate with the lowest votes is excluded, and the whole of his ballot papers are transferred to the continuing candidates according to preferences. Any continuing candidate thereby obtaining the quota is elected, and if there are still vacancies his surplus votes are transferred.

The process of exclusion and transfer of ballot-papers is repeated until remaining vacancies are filled by candidates obtaining the quota, or, in respect of the last vacancy, by obtaining a majority of votes, even if this is less than the quota.

When transferring the surplus votes of elected candidates other than those elected on the count of first preference votes, only those ballot papers which have been transferred to the elected candidates at the last preceding count are considered. Similarly, in the transfer of surplus votes of a candidate elected during the exclusion procedure, only the ballot papers transferred from the candidate last excluded are taken into account.

The exclusion of the candidate with the lowest votes and the distribution of his ballot papers operate also immediately after the count of first preference votes, where no candidate has obtained the quota.

The amending act also provides for the filling of a long casual vacancy by the continuing candidate who, next after the periodical vacancies have been filled as above, first receives a number of votes equal to or greater than the quota.

5. **Commonwealth Referenda.**—(i) *General.* According to Section 128 of the Constitution, any proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution must, in addition to being passed by an absolute majority of each House of Parliament, be submitted to a referendum of the electors in each State, and must further be approved by a majority of the States and of the electors who voted, before it can be presented for Royal Assent. So far 23 proposals have been submitted to referenda and the consent of the electors has been received in four cases only, the first in relation to the election of Senators in 1906, the second and third in respect of State Debts—one in 1910 and the other in 1928—and the fourth in respect of Social Services in 1946. Details of the various referenda and the voting thereon were given in previous issues of the Official Year Book (*see* No. 18, p. 87, No. 31, p. 67, No. 35, p. 60, No. 36, p. 61, and No. 37, pp. 64-5).

(ii) *Post-war Reconstruction and Democratic Rights Referendum, 1944.* Particulars of events leading up to, and of, the referendum on the transfer of powers from the States to the Commonwealth in August, 1944 will be found in Official Year Book No. 37 and earlier issues.

(iii) *Social Services, Organized Marketing of Primary Products and Industrial Employment Referendum, 1946.* A referendum held on 28th September, 1946, to decide whether the Commonwealth should be empowered to legislate for the provision of certain social services, the organized marketing of primary products, and with respect to terms and conditions of employment in industry, resulted in approval being granted by the electors for the first proposal only. Consequent on obtaining this approval, the Constitution Alteration (Social Services) Act 1946 was assented to on 19th December,

1946. Section 51 (Powers of the Parliament) of the Constitution is thereby altered by the insertion, after paragraph (xxiii) invalid and old-age pensions, of the following paragraph :—

“(xxiiia) The provision of maternity allowances, widows’ pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services (but not so as to authorize any form of civil conscription), benefits to students and family allowances.”

For a summary of the events leading up to the referendum, and for details of the voting at the referendum, see Official Year Book No. 37, pp. 64–5.

(iv) *Constitution Alteration (Rents and Prices) Referendum, 1948.* On 29th May, 1948 a referendum was taken to decide whether power should be granted to the Commonwealth Government to control rents and prices (including charges). The results showed a majority in each State against the proposal. Particulars were as follows :—

#### CONSTITUTION ALTERATION (RENTS AND PRICES) REFERENDUM, 29th MAY, 1948.

State.	Yes.	No.	Informal.	Total.
New South Wales .. .. .	723,183	1,012,639	26,269	1,762,091
Victoria .. .. .	559,361	693,937	16,739	1,270,037
Queensland .. .. .	187,955	422,236	7,487	617,678
South Australia .. .. .	167,171	229,438	6,169	402,778
Western Australia .. .. .	105,605	168,088	4,589	278,282
Tasmania .. .. .	50,437	91,845	2,853	145,135
Total .. .. .	1,793,712	2,618,183	64,106	4,476,001
Percentage (a) .. .. .	40.66	59.34	..	..

(a) Excludes informal votes.

6. **Broadcast of Parliamentary Proceedings.**—The proceedings of both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament are regularly broadcast at certain specified times by the national broadcasting system. For some particulars of the origin of this practice see Official Year Book No. 37, p. 65.

7. **Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Act 1948.**—For particulars see § 3 dealing with Parliamentary Superannuation Funds, pp. 91–99.

8. **The Parliament of New South Wales.**—(i) *Constitution.* The Parliament of New South Wales consists of two Chambers, the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. The Assembly consists of 90 members, elected in single-seat electoral districts, who hold their seats during the existence of the Parliament to which they are elected. The duration of Parliament is limited to three years. Until 1934 the Council was a nominee Chamber, consisting of a variable number of members appointed for life without remuneration, but as from 23rd April, 1934 it was reconstituted and became a House of 60 members to serve without remuneration for a term of twelve years, with one-quarter of the members retiring every third year. As from 1st September, 1948, however, members of the Council have been paid an allowance of £300 per annum. The electorate comprises members of both Chambers, who vote as a single electoral body at simultaneous sittings of both Chambers. At the first elections in 1933, four